

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 234249

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC CA

SUBJECT: W/W: ARRESTS: SCHEDULE OF VISITS TO PRISONERS

REF: OTTAWA 3584

1. DEPARTMENT PREPARED CONSIDER ANY REQUEST FOR
DEVIATION FROM ESTABLISHED MONTHLY VISIT REQUIREMENT
WHENEVER JUSTIFIED BY INDIVIDUAL POSTS.
2. AS EMBRETEL POINTS OUT, CONDITIONS VARY CONSIDERABLY
IN DIFFERENT CONSULAR DISTRICTS. THUS DEPARTMENT NOT RPT
NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANY EXCEPTION TO ESTABLISHED POLICY
ON COUNTRY-WIDE BASIS BUT WILL GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION
TO RATIONALE BASED ON CONDITIONS OBTAINING EACH INDIVIDUAL
CONSULAR DISTRICT.
3. DEPARTMENT AGREES CANADIAN SYSTEM OF JUSTICE AND
PENOLOGY ARE OF HIGH ORDER. WE MUST, HOWEVER, QUESTION
UNIVERSALITY OF "LACK OF LANGUAGE PROBLEMS" SINCE IT
APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY ALL AMERICANS INCARCERATED
QUEBEC ARE FRENCH SPEAKING.

4. IN DETERMINING FREQUENCY OF CONSULAR VISITATION

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TO PRISONERS,POSTS SHOULD CONSIDER THAT RESPONSIBILITIES

GO FAR BEYOND ANSWERING QUESTIONS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE OR ADEQUACY OF PENAL CONDITIONS WHICH APPARENTLY ARE NOT RPT NOT PROBLEMS IN CANADA. POSTS ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING GENERAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH ALL AMCITS INCARCERATED THEIR DISTRICTS ON A REGULAR AND MEANINGFUL BASIS, AND FOR INSURING THAT AMCITS RECEIVE ADEQUATE LEGAL DEFENSE AND ARE TRIED IN A TIMELY MANNER. IN ADDITION, ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS FROM PRISONERS, MEMBERS THEIR FAMILIES OR CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES ARE NOT RPT NOT COMMON, NEITHER ARE THEY UNHEARD OF. IF, IN OUR INTERIM REPLY TO SUCH QUERIES WE ARE ABLE TO SHOW THAT ON THE BASIS OF A RECENT VISIT EITHER NO PROBLEM HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO POST'S ATTENTION OR THAT, ALTERNATIVELY, POST IS AWARE OF PROBLEM AND HAS TAKEN APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY ACTION THEREON" WE CAN DEMONSTRATE THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH BOTH POSTS AND DEPARTMENT VIEW RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED AMERICANS. ROBINSON

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